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NEW ENGLAND MUST PLANT TREES THIS SPRING!

THERE is ample opportunity for every town in New England to initiate a carefully planned tree planting program this spring, and the need for this is very great. After the devastating hurricane of last September, the streets of many towns have been frightfully marred by the loss of valuable trees, and civic organizations everywhere in New England are uniting in planning intelligent tree planting programs for the streets and highways as well as on private property.

There are a few important points to be kept in mind when planting trees anywhere; some are common knowledge, but others may be unknown to the individual who has had little or no previous experience in this field. Briefly, these points are as follows:

Transplanting in the spring should only be done when the soil is well dried and in workable condition. When soil is wet or muddy, any handling or working will "puddle" it; that is, the air spaces will be closed up when worked, and the soil may dry out in almost brick-like consistency. In such soil it is almost impossible for plant roots to grow. Consequently, the time of actually planting trees will vary considerably over the New England area. As soon as the soil is in good condition plant immediately, for the longer the period in which the tree has to grow, the better off it will be.

The hole dug for the tree should be deep and ample. The tree itself should be set not more than two inches deeper than it was formerly. Remember that it is always better to plant a fifty-cent tree in a three-dollar hole than a three-dollar tree in a fifty-cent hole.

If drainage is poor, a drain should be put in the bottom of the hole. If there is a hard clay bottom, it should be broken up with a pick axe. If the soil is very poor, it might well be removed entirely, a good layer of well-rotted manure (never use fresh manure) placed on the bottom of the hole, and good top soil filled in firmly underneath and on top

of the roots. Sometimes a tamping stick is used for this, since it is imperative to get plenty of soil well-firmed under the roots as well as on top of them. Some tender barked trees, such as birch and beech may do better if their trunks are wrapped in burlap for several months after transplanting.

It may be advantageous to leave a slight depression around the tree in order to catch water, for the newly transplanted tree needs much water, and it should be carefully and conscientiously watered during the dry periods the first year. At the time of transplanting, the tree should be either staked or guyed with wires which are run through a rubber hose around one side of the tree only, so that it will become established in the correct upright position. The wires should be left on for the first year or two.

A word of caution is needed for the person who wants to dig and transplant trees from the woods. Sometimes this proves successful, but more often it results in failure because the roots have never been pruned. Such trees are very difficult to transplant unless every root is carefully dug and protected against drying out during the transplanting process, and the roots are apt to be greatly elongated. It is usually better to buy trees from nurseries, for such trees have been periodically root pruned, thus rendering it easier and safer to transplant them.

### **Pruning and Later Care**

It is a comparatively simple matter to plant a tree. Anyone can do it. If reasonable care be taken in the transplanting operation, the tree will live. However, no planting program is complete without a word of caution concerning the later care of the tree. It must be pruned somewhat as soon as it is in its new situation. The pruning of branches is necessary to compensate for the loss of roots cut off in the transplanting operation. Trees which were severely wrenched or tilted by the hurricane might also have some branches removed. This is frequently hard to do, but results in much better growth. The tree must be carefully watered; evergreens must have their tops sprayed in the evenings of particularly hot summer days; bad crotches among the branches must be located and eliminated; disease and insect troubles must be cared for as they appear, and often it is wise to take preventative measures before they appear. The experienced gardener knows these things and is always prepared to act when such difficulties arise.

### **What Trees to Plant**

Contrary to popular belief, there is a wide variety of trees which can be planted along the streets of New England towns. There is nothing quite like the American elm and the sugar maple, both of which are native here. Yet, since the time our forefathers planted the streets so marred by the hurricane, a surprisingly large number of hardy exotic

trees have been introduced and tested, and these offer splendid opportunities for interesting planting. Then, too, there are many trees native to this country which might very well be included in any tree planting program. All the streets of a town do not have to be planted with the American elm or sugar maple. If the property owners on a certain street unite in the desire "to plant something different," let them, by all means! They might try the beautiful flowering Sargent cherry, the mountain silverbell, or even the flowering dogwood! If they want brilliant autumn color combined with splendid summer foliage and flower, they might use the southern sourwood. The sweetgum is also a possibility. If the street is very narrow, there are other plants besides the Lombardy poplar. The upright growing variety of the English beech, ginkgo or hornbeam are all possibilities.

New England towns now have a splendid opportunity for making their streets interesting to a public which is becoming increasingly plant conscious. The following suggestions are given to indicate some of the trees that might be used. All are available from nurseries, and if they cannot be located in local nurseries, the Arnold Arboretum will be glad to indicate where they may be obtained.

#### **Suggested List of Trees for Planting in New England**

(Those marked with an asterisk are not hardy in the northern parts of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.)

##### **Trees for Wide Streets**

<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar Maple
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Hackberry
<i>Sophora japonica</i>	Katsura-tree
<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	White Ash
<i>Fraxinus lanceolata</i>	Green Ash
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos inermis</i>	Thornless Honeylocust
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	*Tuliptree
<i>Phellodendron amurense</i>	Amur Corktree
<i>Platanus acerifolia</i>	*London Planetree
<i>Populus alba</i>	White Poplar
<i>Prunus sargentii</i>	*Sargent Cherry
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	*Pin Oak
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Red Oak
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American Elm
<i>Ulmus campestris</i>	*English Elm

##### **Trees for Medium Width Streets**

<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple
<i>Acer platanoides schwedleri</i>	Schwedler Maple
<i>Crataegus crusgalli</i>	Cockspur Thorn
<i>Halesia monticola</i>	*Mountain Silverbell
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	*Sweetgum
<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>	*Cucumbertree



<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	*Sourwood
<i>Quercus coccinea</i>	*Scarlet Oak
<i>Quercus phellos</i>	*Willow Oak
<i>Quercus imbricaria</i>	Shingle Oak
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	*Tupelo
<i>Sassafras albidum</i> (S. officinale)	*Sassafras
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	*Littleleaf European Linden
<i>Tilia vulgaris</i>	*Common European Linden
<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	*Silver Linden

#### Trees for Narrow Streets

<i>Carpinus betulus fastigiata</i>	*Pyramidal Hornbeam
<i>Carya glabra</i>	Pignut Hickory
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	*American Redbud
<i>Cornus florida</i>	*Flowering Dogwood
<i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i>	Washington Hawthorn
<i>Crataegus phaenopyrum fastigiata</i>	Pyramidal Hawthorn
<i>Fagus sylvatica fastigiata</i>	*Dawycck Beech
<i>Ginkgo biloba fastigiata</i>	Columnar Ginkgo
<i>Populus alba pyramidalis</i>	Bolleana Poplar
<i>Quercus robur fastigiata</i>	*Pyramidal English Oak
<i>Tilia platyphyllos fastigiata</i>	*Pyramidal European Linden
<i>Ulmus americana</i> "Moline Elm"	Moline Elm

#### Other Trees and Tall Shrubs for Ornamental Planting on the Home Grounds

	Oriental Crabapples (many types valuable for flowers and fruits)
	*Magnolias (for flowers)
	*Japanese Cherries (for flowers)
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	*European Beech (several varieties for interest- ing form and color)
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	*American Holly (for fruits)
<i>Cladrastis lutea</i>	*Yellowwood (for white flowers)
<i>Syringa japonica</i>	*Japanese Tree Lilac (for flowers)
<i>Caragana arborescens</i>	Siberian Pea-tree (for yellow flowers)
<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	*Nannyberry (for flower and fruit)
<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	Blackhaw (for flower and fruit)
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian-olive (for gray foliage)
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	Allegheny Shadblow (for flowers)
<i>Pseudotsuga taxifolia</i>	Douglas Fir (evergreen)
<i>Pinus resinosa</i>	Red Pine (evergreen)
<i>Pinus strobus</i>	White Pine (evergreen)
<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	Canada Hemlock (evergreen)
<i>Tsuga caroliniana</i>	Carolina Hemlock (evergreen)
<i>Picea omorika</i>	*Serbian Spruce (evergreen)

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